



Japan lifts trade ban against Wisconsin poultry

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MADISON – Japan has lifted its Low-pathogen Avian Influenza (LPAI) ban on Wisconsin poultry products effective today, October 30, 2013. The action comes four months after a routine inspection at a Jefferson county poultry farm determined that some birds had developed antibodies to the disease indicating possible exposure.

“All initial and follow-up test results were declared negative in early August after an extensive investigation, but it takes time to work through the proper channels to get an international ban lifted,” said Dr. Paul McGraw, Wisconsin State Veterinarian. Product from birds slaughtered or eggs laid on or after October 30, 2013 is now eligible for trade to Japan. Any product produced between June 3 and October 30 remains ineligible.

Animal health officials at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) immediately began extensive testing during the early weeks of July after the antibody discovery. DATCP veterinarians and inspectors, utilizing livestock premises registration and poultry sales records, tested 111 flocks within a 7 mile radius of the initial property. Follow-up test samples were collected from the same birds two weeks later.

“There was never any risk to public health or food safety and the test results showed no signs of the virus itself,” added Dr. McGraw.

China and Russia both also ordered a ban on Wisconsin poultry as a result of the investigation. DATCP continues to work with its federal partners to get those restrictions lifted.

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